

# NEWS

*For immediate release*



**MARICOPA COUNTY**  
**Environmental Services Department**  
1001 N. Central, Suite 550  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

October 13, 1999

Contact: Courtney James, Environmental Services Department – (602) 506-6948  
Laura Cherry, Valley Metro – (602) 534-1809

## **BROWN CLOUD ON THE HORIZON FOR THE VALLEY** *Up-to-date air quality data available on line*

PHOENIX, Ariz.- Maricopa County has announced it will begin issuing High Pollution Advisories (HPAs) for particulate matter (PM10) in addition to carbon monoxide. The HPAs will be issued from October to March each year to coincide with the carbon monoxide season.

Of all the pollutants, PM10 has the most severe health impacts on individuals. PM10 can pose a serious health risk, especially for children, the elderly, and people with asthma or other breathing problems. Residents can call (602) 506-6400 to find out if an HPA has been issued or sign-up at Valley Metro's website, <http://www.valleymetro.maricopa.gov>, to receive HPA notification via email.

The Valley has not had a violation for carbon monoxide since January 1996. It is critical that the region maintain it's clean streak or the Valley will face being re-designated a non-attainment area. Maricopa County air quality officials are forecasting that high levels of particulate pollution may trigger between 15 and 17 HPAs this winter. In the event of an advisory, residents should reduce their driving, use alternative forms of transportation and not use their woodburning fireplaces.

The primary source of the Valley's winter pollution is motor vehicles. Valley drivers can help reduce pollution in the air by reducing their driving and keeping their cars in good running condition. Valley commuters who carpool/vanpool, bus, bike, walk or telecommute, even one day a week, make a significant contribution to reducing carbon monoxide and particulate pollution. It is also important to refrain from using woodburning fireplaces and to stabilize bare earth to avoid soil disturbances.

Valley residents can visit Maricopa County's **new** air quality web page to receive the latest information at <http://www.maricopa.gov/sbeap/airday.htm>. For help finding a carpool partner, forming a vanpool, or starting a telecommuting program at your place of employment, call Valley Metro RideShare at (602) 262-RIDE.